

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

This is yet another example of government by the corporation for the corporation which is an issue that should be sent all the way to the Supreme Court. The free flow of unbiased information-or at least maintaining the principle of equal time for partisan messages-- is the only thing that will keep this country a democracy.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

A free press is essential to a free society. Thank you.